

Erigeron peregrinus ssp. *peregrinus* var. *thompsonii*

(Blake ex J.W. Thompson) Cronq.

Thompson's wandering daisy

Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G5T2S2

General Description: Adapted from Douglas et al. (1998): *Erigeron peregrinus* ssp. *peregrinus* var. *thompsonii* is a perennial herb arising from a short rhizome or woody stem-base. The erect, simple stems are 2 to 28 in. (5-70 cm) tall, hairless to moderately long-hairy below, and usually densely long-hairy beneath the heads. The basal and lower stem leaves taper to the stalk, and are linear-lanceolate to linear oblanceolate, 1/2 to 8 in. (1-20 cm) long and 1/16 to 1 1/4 in. (0.2-4.5 cm) wide. The middle and upper stem leaves sometimes partially or wholly surround the stem and are up to 3-1/8 in. (8 cm) long and 1/2 in. (3 cm) wide. The flower heads are mostly solitary, but sometimes there are as many as 8. The disks are 1/2 to 1 in. (1.2-2.5 cm) wide. The disk flowers are 1/4 in. (4-6 mm) long. The whorl of bracts subtending the flowers (involucre) is 1/3 in. (7.5-11 mm) tall. The loose involucral bracts are long-hairy or somewhat sticky and fringed with small hairs on the margins; they are mostly rather leafy and about equal in length. The 30-80 ray flowers are usually white, or sometimes lavender or reddish to dark-purplish, and are 1/3 to 1 in. (8-25 mm) long by 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2-4 mm) wide. The achenes (fruits) are 4 to 7-nerved, and sparsely hairy with a single pappus (cluster of bristles at the tip of the fruit) that has 20-30 bristles. The pappus occasionally has a few short and inconspicuous outer bristles.

Identification Tips: *Erigeron peregrinus* is separated into two subspecies: ssp. *peregrinus* and ssp. *callianthemus*. The ssp. *peregrinus* is further separated into three varieties: var. *dawsonii* (occurring in Washington's Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish counties, as well as northeastern Idaho), var. *peregrinus* (endemic to the northern Oregon coast) and var. *thompsonii* (occurring in Washington's Grays Harbor and Clallam counties). The ssp. *callianthemus* is divided into two varieties: var. *hirsutus* (occurring in central California and Nevada) and var. *callianthemus* (occurring throughout the Olympic Peninsula in Washington as well as in the Cascades and Rocky Mountain ranges). *E. peregrinus* ssp. *peregrinus* var. *thompsonii* and *E. peregrinus* ssp. *callianthemus* var. *callianthemus* both occur in Clallam County and can be distinguished from each other by their involucral bracts and rays. The involucral bracts of var. *thompsonii* are somewhat sticky on the back, long-hairy, ciliate margined, and not at all glandular, whereas the involucral bracts of var. *callianthemus* are not sticky or long-hairy, lack ciliate margins, and are densely glandular on back. The rays of var. *thompsonii* are usually white, while the rays of var.

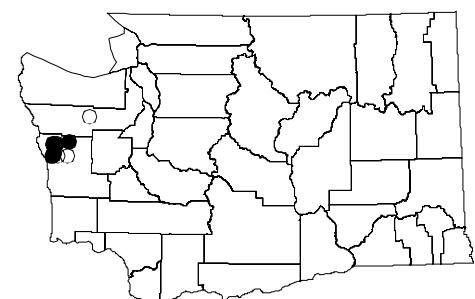
Erigeron peregrinus ssp. *peregrinus* var. *thompsonii*

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Known distribution
of *Erigeron peregrinus* ssp.
peregrinus var. *thompsonii*
in Washington



Erigeron peregrinus ssp. *peregrinus* var.
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callianthemus are rose-purple or darker. A technical key is needed for identification.

Phenology: In Washington this taxon has been observed flowering from May through July.

Range: This endemic taxon occurs in Grays Harbor and Clallam counties, Washington.

Habitat: This taxon has been found in moist sphagnum areas under cedar and pine forests, from 200 to 600 feet (61-183 meters) elevation, with the following associated species: sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum* spp.), western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*), western white pine (*Pinus monticola*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), cascara (*Rhamnus purshiana*), Labrador tea (*Ledum groenlandicum*), and bog anemone (*Anemone oregana* var. *felix*).

Ecology: This is the only endemic plant of the Olympic Peninsula that grows exclusively at lower elevations. The taxon is typically found in low elevation swamps and bogs, in organic peaty soil.

State Status Comments: There are less than fifteen documented occurrences of this endemic taxon.

Inventory Needs: All known occurrences were documented between 1979-1980, and should be revisited for updated information.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats to the taxon include timber harvest and alterations in hydrology.

References:

Douglas, G.W., G.B. Straley, D. Meidinger, and J. Pojar. 1998. *Illustrated Flora of British Columbia* vol. 1: *Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons*. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Victoria, British Columbia. 436 pp.

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